



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2008

Lisa Aug (502) 564-9203
Lisa.Aug@ky.gov
veterans.ky.gov

New Show by Producer of Thunder Over Louisville Will Benefit Honor Flight of the Bluegrass

*Proceeds to fund flights of World War II Kentucky Veterans
to Washington Memorial in 2009*

(LOUISVILLE, Oct. 13, 2008) See the newest show from the producer of Thunder Over Louisville and help Kentucky's World War II veterans visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

All proceeds from Wayne Hettinger's new musical show, "An Evening with America," in Louisville Nov. 1 and 2 will be donated to Honor Flight Bluegrass. In Honor Flight Bluegrass' inaugural year of 2008, the organization flew 204 Kentucky World War II veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorial – all free of charge. Honor Flight will kick off its 2009 season in May and hopes to take 400 Kentucky World War II veterans to their memorial.

"Please support our Honor Flight mission of providing our local WWII veterans a chance to visit and reflect at their WWII Memorial by coming to this great musical event," said Brian Duffy,

director of Honor Flight Bluegrass. “You will know that your night’s entertainment will be doubly enjoyable as you help to support the noble work of Honor Flight.”

Hettinger described the new program:

“‘An Evening in America 1944: A Nostalgic Trip to America’s Golden Years’ is being presented in honor of the Veterans of the United States Military, past and present.

“It has been said, ‘The America’s are at their best, when they are at their worst.’ And so it was throughout the decade of the 40’s. President Roosevelt promised, ‘We have nothing to fear, but fear itself’, and the country united with more than sixteen million serving in the military, to turn the tides of war, and kept the war,.. over there. And Rosie “the riveter” led the way on the home front to supply their needs. It was the worst of times, and the Americans were at their best.

“The title, An Evening In America 1944 was chosen because of the nostalgic images that immediately meld in the mind’s eye, and of the music that continues to swing through the decades of time.

“The performance promises to be a non-stop, over the top, visual and musical adventure through time, while saluting the men and women, past and present that have pledged their lives for our country, our safety and our freedom.

“The Line-up Includes:

Ladies for Liberty

The Don Krekel Orchestra

Thoroughbred Chorus

The G. Miller Dancers

Flags 4 Vets

(and more)”

There will be two performances at the Louisville Memorial Auditorium at 970 South 4th Street in Louisville. Times at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Honor Flight is run entirely by volunteers and financed by donations. The flight, meals, ground transportation and individual support is completely free to the veterans.

Each flight, based on 40 veterans and 15 guardian/escorts (who pay their own way), costs between \$10,000 and \$11,000, Duffy says. That breaks down to about \$8,000 in air fare, \$1,200 for the bus from the airport to the Memorial and back, \$1,100 for three meals including a restaurant buffet, and \$700 for miscellaneous, including T-shirts, memorial books, ID badges and lanyards.

To begin Kentucky Honor Flights, Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter received \$25,000 from the Veterans Program Trust Fund, which is administered by the Kentucky Department of Veterans

Affairs. Since May 21, Honor Flight Bluegrass has received approximately \$10,500 in direct donations.

To make donations, volunteer to help, or find out more about Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter, go to www.honorflightbluegrass.com.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are an estimated 36,569 World War II veterans living in Kentucky.

As the national Honor Flight organization notes, “very few of these senior veterans have the logistical knowledge or physical strength to complete an unescorted conventional trip to Washington, D.C.

“It is our mission to honor as many of these remaining selfless ‘ordinary people who saved the world’ as we can by providing them an organized and expense-paid, escorted day trip to visit their memorial.

“Volunteer guardians (escorts) pay their own way, and personally assist the senior veterans throughout the trip.”